

Tree House Youth Theatre

President's Report

To say the least, our 2019-2020 season was eventful. There were a few key season highlights that stand out in my mind:

- The sold out run of Little Women late in 2019 was brilliantly delivered by our young actors and technical staff. A special kudos goes out to our Artistic Director, Albertus Koett for an excellent production.
- Program registration rose 50% from January 2019 to January 2020, as Tree House prepared to deliver its inaugural One Act Festival, with shows directed by program registrants.
- Our artists made the best out of the COVID shutdown with online workshops, and the online Shakespeare Short Film Festival, which marked a unique foray into film for THYT.
- Our website, treehousetheatre.ca, was refreshed and looks great in both large screen and mobile formats. The site is full of timely information about our current program, and is loaded with photos and cast information from past productions over our 32 seasons.

Along with our many successes, the program has faced many challenges over the past year. While these challenges have tested our resiliency, we are certainly not alone in the Arts Community in having been challenged this year. Some of the most acute challenges we have faced include:

- The pandemic led to the shut down of our One Act Festival before it could be staged.
- Over a dozen parents and other registrant family members volunteered for a casino night late in 2019, and, as of our last update from AGLC, our next one won't be until Q4 of 2023. In the past, we had casinos at 2, 2.5 and 3 year intervals.
- Our ticketing agency, Black Knight Tickets, has gone into receivership and we are owed \$5,200 from ticket sales for Little Women. This loss of revenue, on top of pandemic related financial impacts, has significantly impacted our financial position.

The highs and lows of the past year have left our organization inspired and eager to continue to deliver on our mandate of providing quality and meaningful theatre experiences for our youth and our audiences, and to emerge stronger as a result of the challenges we have faced. I look forward to the year ahead as this organization emerges from this challenging year to continue to produce excellent theatre programming.

Respectfully,

Stephan Weninger

THYT President, 2019-2020